

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 9, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 21, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 5, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 4, 2015

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 18**

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**Introduced by Senators Hill and Hueso**

December 1, 2014

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An act to add Section 307.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 18, as amended, Hill. Public Utilities Commission: outside counsel.

The Public Utilities Act authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to appoint an attorney for the commission who holds that office at the pleasure of the commission. The act requires the attorney to represent and appear for the people and the commission in all actions and proceedings involving any question under the act or under any order or act of the commission. The act requires the attorney to commence, prosecute, and expedite the final determination of all actions and proceedings directed or authorized by the president, except as otherwise directed or authorized by vote of the commission, to advise the commission and each commissioner in regard to all matters in connection with the powers and duties of the commission or a commissioner, when requested, and generally, to perform all duties and

services as attorney to the commission that the president, or vote of the commission, may require of him or her.

This bill would require that any contract or other agreement by the commission for services by outside legal counsel to represent the commission in a criminal investigation initiated by any federal, state, or local agency be approved by a vote of the commission ~~and be subject to a 30-day review by no sooner than 30 days after it is submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee before the agreement is entered into for review.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 307.5 is added to the Public Utilities  
2 Code, to read:

3 307.5. (a) Any contract or other agreement by the commission  
4 for services by outside legal counsel to represent the commission  
5 in a criminal investigation initiated by any federal, state, or local  
6 agency shall be approved by a vote of the commission ~~and subject~~  
7 ~~to a 30-day review by no sooner than 30 days after the contract~~  
8 ~~or agreement is submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget~~  
9 ~~Committee before the agreement is entered into for review.~~

10 (b) ~~The Joint Legislative Budget Committee, as part of its~~  
11 ~~review, shall consider~~ Any contract or other agreement submitted  
12 to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review and to be  
13 voted on by the commission pursuant to subdivision (a) shall  
14 include all of the following information:

15 (1) The funds that the commission will use to pay for these  
16 services.

17 (2) Whether the commission has followed all of the laws and  
18 procedures applicable to contracting for legal services.

19 (3) Whether, and to what degree, existing programs and  
20 operations of the commission will be affected.

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